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Boy Scout Camp Out

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The Signal



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News UPDATE

Graduation

Freedom Park Elementary School will hold its first commencement ceremony for fifth grade graduates.

The ceremony is **9:15 a.m. today** at Freedom Park.

Albert J. Meyer Award nominations

The Adolphus W. Greely Chapter of the Signal Corps Regimental Association announces the annual solicitation for nominees for the prestigious Albert J. Meyer Awards. These awards are designed to recognize individuals who have contributed significantly to the advancement of the Signal Corps and the United States Army.

The presentations will be made at the 2003 Signal Ball on June 12 at the Gordon Club.

The Albert J. Myers awards will be given to the most outstanding Officer/Warrant Officer, Non-Commissioned Officer, Enlisted Soldier, and Civilian. Each awardee will receive a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond.

Deadline for nominations is **May 30**. Send to Bryan Tuschen at btuschen@knology.net or call 650-0953.

Signal Ball

The 143rd Signal Anniversary Ball will be held **June 12** at the Gordon Club. Cocktails begin at 6 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7 p.m.. Cost is \$18 for E-5/GS-5 and below and \$25 for E-6/GS-6 and above. The guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Peter M. Cuvillo. For more information contact Sgt 1st Class Christopher Dempsey at 791-1761.

Defense military pay office closed

The Defense Military Pay Office will be closed on **May 23 - 26** in observance of the training holiday and Memorial Day Holiday. For emergencies, page 241-1486.

For more information, call 791-4826.

Correction

In the "MARS grams send messages to deployed soldiers" story in the May 9 issue of *The Signal* on page 6A, Ed Dodds and Ed Butorajac were misidentified.

Gordon Terrace town hall meeting

Gordon Terrace Housing Area Residents will be having a Town Hall meeting on **May 20** from 6 to 8 p.m. in Alexander Hall. It is a mandatory event for all service members who reside in Gordon Terrace. All others are cordially invited. Children are welcome.

Foleys move on to next chapter in lives

James Hudgins
Public Affairs Office

After nearly two years as the U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon's Chief of Staff, Col. Jeff Foley, was recently placed on the Army's promotion list for brigadier general. With his upcoming promotion, he also received orders for his next assignment as the J-6 for U.S. Central Command at McDill Air Force Base, Fla. With departure a few weeks away, the "chief" took time to talk with this reporter about his experiences, his reflections and future plans for he and his wife, Beth.

How does it feel to be on the promotion list for brigadier general? "It is truly a humbling experience. Graduating from West Point twenty-five years ago, I

was not certain I even wanted to make the service a career. My goal was to focus on doing the very best I could at whatever job I had... my goal was never explicitly to become a general officer. My selection for promotion has caused me to reflect on my life - remember and appreciate the tremendous number of people who guided and enabled me to be successful."

When asked who most influenced his career, Foley answered, "Fortunately, I've had some great role models throughout my life. My dad was the most influential, although the rest of my family all offered something unique and invaluable to me. I also had some wonderful adult leaders while growing up in my hometown of Mariemont, Ohio [near Cincinnati]...people such as Hank Kleinfeldt, Jim Moffett, Don Hopkins and Larry Lyons, among many others.

They committed remarkable amounts of time to kids in our community. These folks genuinely cared about us and our development into good citizens. Speaking for all the friends of my youth, we will be eternally grateful. While in uniform, I've been equally blessed to have had countless leaders, mentors and outstanding soldiers of every rank contribute to my success and affect me as an officer and as a person. And, of course, Beth, my wife of 20 years, has always been my very best counselor and supporter.

What are some of the greatest challenges, and achievements you will remember as chief of staff? I found that my most important role was understanding the commanding general's intent and vision for the Signal Regiment as well as for the installation. The challenge was ensuring that our actions as a command were



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

Fort Gordon's Chief of Staff Col. Jeff Foley and his wife, Beth, reflect on their time here. Their next duty station is as J6 for U.S. Central Command McDill Air Force Base, Fla.

consistent with that intent and vision. I can't remark on any personal achievements, because any successes we have as a command are always a result of teamwork... and we have a great team here at Fort Gordon! From a signal center perspective, we've enjoyed some great achievements in the past two

years: securing the communications systems for the objective forces of tomorrow's Army - notably JTRS and WIN-T; transforming the way we train - getting on with lifelong learning; training IET soldiers to standard and

See Foley, Page 2

Land navigation: Getting there by plotting, reading grid coordinates

Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo
93rd Signal Brigade PAO

The main difference between the civilian and military work force comes down to being able to plot and find grid coordinates.

For civilian mechanics the customer finds them unlike military mechanics whose primary job is to recover downed vehicles.

Military cooks must know how to find the site where they're supposed to set their mobile kitchen trailer to feed their soldiers.

"If my truck breaks down somewhere when I'm out in the field, and I call Specialist Aikens to bring a wrecker out to me, he needs to be able to find me," said Sgt. Jorge Lugo, Co.A, 67th Signal Battalion, multi-channel transmission systems NCO. "If he can't get to me then he can't do his job." More than 175 67th Sig. Bn. soldiers conducted mounted land navigation training at Fort Gordon Training Area 37 on May 1.

Leaders developed the train-



(Above) Spc. Henry Aiken, Co. A, 67th Sig. Bn., light-wheel vehicle mechanic, plots his points on the map. "I'm going to PLDC soon, so this is great hands on training for me," he said. (Right) Staff Sgt. Craig Livermore, Co. C, 67th Sig. Bn., small extension node supervisor, gives soldiers a refresher course on map reading, plotting points and choosing routes.

ing to focus the battalion on the basics of land navigation.

After the March situational training exercise, leaders attributed many of the battalion's faults to basic land navigation errors, said Maj. James Young, Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 67th Sig. Bn., S-3 officer in charge.

"We had soldiers set up in say Training Area 29, and they were told to make their shot to another antenna in Training Area 26," he said. "But if their grid location was plotted wrong, then their



Photos by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

shot is going to be off."

Teams have to ensure that their Digital Antenna Mast Positioning System's sound wave path isn't off by more than three degrees, said Young.

When a team's shot is off a grid, then their sound wave path could be off by as much as 60-degrees, he said.

Soldiers have also been fore-

going their land navigation skills because they have become too familiar with the Fort Gordon training areas.

"The soldiers may know how to get to the range control building; but if we only gave them a map, protractor, compass and a 10 digit grid to the same building, the outcome may be different," said Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Sensenig, HHC, 67th Sig. Bn., S-3 operations NCO. "It's like relying on spell-check all of the time, when you should be pulling out the dictionary."

The drivers were the proctors, or instructors, who knew the locations of several predetermined points. The students sat in the vehicle commander's seat with a map and plotted a grid coordinate, said Sensenig.

"Once the student tells the proctor to stop, the proctor will tell the student if they were a GO or NO GO," said Sensenig. "If they got a GO then we would switch students."

"We successfully trained

See Land Nav, Page 2

Getting on-line on Tallil Air Base

Spc. Alan G. Davis
22nd MPAD

Units living on Tallil Air Base that need access to SIPRNET and NIPRNET accounts should contact Company B, 63rd Signal Battalion, in order to gain access to both Microsoft Outlook Exchange accounts and the Internet.

"We would be happy to have people come in and have their accounts set up," said 1st. Lt. Erica Pitts, operations officer for Company B, 63rd Signal Battalion. "The process is easy. All a unit has to do is either e-mail or drop off a list that has their unit name, every person that needs an exchange account, and whether or not they

need SIPRNET or NIPRNET access or both if they so desire."

"The number of accounts are limited to what our server can handle," Pitts said. "Before dropping off an account request, senior leaders of that particular unit should determine which soldiers should have access to an exchange account, and whether or not they absolutely need a secure Internet connection or not."

Using an exchange account also helps the speed of the Internet all over post.

"Using the exchange accounts instead of AKO, for instance, helps to free up bandwidth on the server, making it easier for other soldiers at dif-

ferent computer terminals to access and load the Internet," Pitts said.

To date there are nearly 150 accounts set up on Tallil.

Access to the Internet is one of the biggest morale boosters for soldiers here.

"It's been absolutely huge for me and my soldiers," says Capt. Howard Murray, a member of the 377th Theater Support Command. "The NIPRNET helps with all of our morale. It gives us the chance to communicate with other people here on post, it allows us to keep up with the current news and in addition to that we can stay in touch with our family and friends back home."

New battalion joins 93rd

Lt. Col. Robert Rhodes (left), 56th Signal Battalion, commander, and 1st Sgt. Anthony Alford, 252nd Sig. Co., unfurl the 56th Sig. Bn. guidon during an unfurling ceremony at Fort Gordon's Barton Field May 12 at 6 a.m. Commemorating the event the 93rd Sig. Brigade took the 56th Sig. Bn. for a four-mile brigade run.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kelly McCargo

Army bids farewell to White

Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - A farewell ceremony marked the end of Thomas White's term as the 18th secretary of the Army May 9 at Fort Myer, Va.

The Department of Defense announced April 25 that White submitted his resignation to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The reason for White's sudden decision to step down was not given.

The White House announced May 7 that James Roche, who is currently the secretary of the Air Force, was nominated as White's replacement. Roche now must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the 19th Secretary of the Army.

It was Spring 2001 when White made his first speech as the secretary of the Army. In front of a group of senior noncommissioned officers, he first introduced the Army to his ideas of transformation and better business practices.

As a former Enron executive who specialized in getting companies to outsource services, one of White's goals was to get the Army out of non-war-related business.

"The last two years have been a period of enormous importance for our Army and the country. The Installation Management Agency, Network Enterprise Technology Command and the

Army Contracting Agency are examples of improvements to our business practices," White said during an intimate ceremony that was hosted by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki.

As a tag team White and Shinseki have both awarded countless soldiers for heroic acts and accomplishments, but this time White stood still while Shinseki pinned the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service Medal on him.

White received the highest award for civilian service in an auditorium filled with his family members, close friends, members of Congress and Pentagon personnel. In formation stood units from the 3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard), and the Army Band, "Pershing's Own," representing soldiers Armywide.

The soldier and his family is why White said he joined the Army team again after retiring as a brigadier general in 1990.

"We came back to the Army two years ago for only one reason, to give something back to the institution that changed my life and gave so much to me," White said.

The Residential Communities Initiative, which uses commercial contractors to improve family housing, was one accomplishment White listed. "By 2007 we will have contracts in place to provide over 72,000 new or refurbished homes to Army families stationed in the United States," he said.

"We are transforming currently with winning the global War on Terrorism. It ain't

the 'shock and awe' of the operational plan that wins wars, it's all about having the best soldiers," White said, which was followed by thunderous applause from the audience.

When White came on board, the Army was in the process of transforming under the vision of Shinseki. But the chief told the audience members that White reinforced his efforts to bridge the operational gap between the rapidly deployable lighter forces and the later arriving heavier forces.

"He [White] fought to increase the Army's momentum in its advance toward the objective force and the future combat system, and he worked tirelessly with Congress to improve housing, pay, and education for soldiers and their family members," Shinseki said.

Two tours in Vietnam and the War on Terrorism are bookends to a career that spans over 36 years and makes White a veteran of three wars, Shinseki said at the end of his 15-minute tribute to White.

White graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1967 and joined the ranks of the Army's officer corps.

The former cavalry officer closed out his Army career holding his grandson, Thomas E. White IV, and watching the Army Band march away playing "The Army Goes Rolling Along."

Farewell message to Army family

It has been my distinct privilege to serve as your secretary these last two years; the absolute high point of my professional life. Our soldiers and civilian employees have distinguished themselves in peace and war befitting our heritage and reputation of service to the nation since before its founding.

I could not be prouder of the outstanding contributions you have made to our nation's defense and the honorable manner in which you have shouldered the immense sacrifices required of you and your families.

The Army remains at War and transforming. We have significant challenges ahead. We will win the War on Terrorism as part of a Joint team regardless of duration and difficulty. Additionally, it is absolutely vital that we build on our successes and sustain our momentum to realize the vision of Army Transformation as part of the Joint Force.

America's Army turns 228 years old next month. Our enduring commitment to our fellow citizens is to be ready to defend the United States and her allies when called. As I conclude my duty with you I am proud to report to the American people that their respect and admiration for their Army is well founded. God Bless you, the United States Army and the United States of America.

Tom White
Army Secretary

Foley

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sending them off to their first units; and the invaluable contribution of Fort Gordon personnel while deployed in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and other recent operations around the world. Another area of gratification is the continued enhancement of our partnership between the installation and the wonderful, supportive people of the entire Augusta area.

In response to a question asking them to compare Fort Gordon with other places to which they have been assigned, the Foleys stated that this has been one of their most enjoyable experiences. This was their second tour here. They looked forward to returning to enjoy and learn about the diverse units and organizations located here. They mentioned their amazement on the variety and energy of so many commands outside the TRADOC community like the medical and dental communities, military intelligence units, tactical signal units, and the garrison support team. Mrs. Foley [who retired as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Nurse Corps] said her 'best assignment was while assigned here at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in the late 1980s.' That experience, and others here prompted both to say that what they enjoyed most about Fort Gordon was its people.... 'dedicated, caring people who work so very hard to make this special place even more special. That includes the installation's civilian neighbors. The people of the Augusta area have made this a second home for us - and every military family assigned here. We've met some of our

dearest friends here.'

Looking back, what will be your most enduring memory of your assignment as chief of staff? 'Without question, it will be the horrible events of '9-11.' I had only been here a few weeks, but I will never forget where I was when I first learned of the terrorist attacks that day, the questions that went through my mind, and the major changes that Fort Gordon, and our entire nation went through afterwards. What makes it so memorable, for me, is the extraordinary efforts made by so many people to get us through that daunting period. 'What do you see in the future for Fort Gordon? 'I don't have a crystal ball, but I see so much potential for Fort Gordon to continue to grow and prosper. My gut feeling is there is a high demand across all services for joint communications training, especially in areas like joint employment concepts, doctrine, communications standards, and network operations. This kind of training would better prepare NCOs and officers from all services for assignments in combatant commands or other joint agencies. Fort Gordon could play a huge role in accomplishing this task. I see a great leap forward for the University of Information Technology concept ... moving from a vision to actuality. From a personal standpoint, I believe that our close relationship with our civilian neighbors will get even better. Beth and I have grown very fond of the many people we've met in Augusta, North Augusta and throughout the Central Savannah River Area. That relationship will be very important, and compelling in the coming years.'

What do you see in the future for Jeff and Beth Foley? 'We won't commit to anything other than focus on what we're doing for the Army. We will continue to serve as long as the Army will have us. But....when the time comes, we will eventually settle down someplace 'warm.' We've had enough winter weather growing up in Ohio. And there is some thought to returning to Augusta.'

Do you have any final thoughts you'd like to share? 'Being Chief of Staff has been a tremendous experience with equal parts challenging and rewarding. I've come to love the job... mainly because of the people who make up the Fort Gordon 'family.'

We can't get through this world on our own....it takes teamwork and commitment. Beth and I want to offer our sincere thanks to all of our team - the leadership, our soldiers and their families, our civilian employees, our volunteers, our tenant commands and our neighbors - who have enriched our lives and who work so hard for our community and for our nation. It's all about people!'

Land Nav

From Page 1

more than 175 soldiers," said Young. "Land Navigation is extremely important and the soldiers want to do this at least once a quarter. We were all shocked when the (Fort Bliss) mechanics were captured by the Iraqi soldiers.

"The 67th is not going to let this happen to our soldiers," he said.

Anniversary of landmark Supreme Court decision

Sgt. 1st Class Dale A. Gaither
93rd Signal Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor

Education is the key to unlock the world. There was a time in the United States of America the key to education was not given out equally or fairly to black Americans.

Can you imagine how black American children and their parents felt during this time? Black children had to walk several miles to a dreary, dilapidated building when in most cases there was a school only a few blocks away, but black children weren't allowed to go to this school because it was for white children.

Brown versus Board of Education was a landmark decision for black American children. The history of Plessy versus Ferguson, the history of Brown versus Board of Education, and the desegregation/segregation of the schools are all very important to American education.

The Brown vs. Board of Education decision ensured equal education for all people and a better future for all of America's children.

The organizations the decision helped greatly were the United States Armed Forces because the need for educated individuals is an important part of today's military. The Armed Forces especially needs people who are able to read and comprehend technical manuals and be able to work on the sophisticated equipment.

The Supreme Court in 1896 ruled separate but equal in the Plessy versus Ferguson case.

The decision was the first ruling that had a great impact on black Americans, leading to the mistreatment and discrimination of all black Americans.

The separate but equal law was an injustice for the equal rights of black American children and for black Americans. Segregation worked to harm African -Americans in the South and in the North.

Plessy versus Ferguson was about Homer Adolph Plessy, a light skinned black man who boarded a train and took a seat in a car reserved for whites and who was promptly asked to move to the car for colored passengers. He refused to move and was quickly arrested by a detective.

Plessy was soon brought before Judge John H. Ferguson who was the judge of the Criminal District Court for the Parish of New Orleans, and ruled against Plessy's argument that the segregation law was a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment and therefore void.

The ruling was appealed to the Louisiana Supreme Court, which granted the petition for Plessy to take his case to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Supreme Court had nullified nearly every vestige of the federal protection that had cast security like a comforting cloak

over the black American upon his/her release from bondage. In time, the word equal would become a ghost.

The black man seemed to have no rights that the white man was bound to honor.

The high court had done quite enough to spur racial segregation. A green light had flashed and in state after state, city after city, and town after town, Jim Crow laws went on the books throughout the South and ended biracial attendance in barbershops and baseball parks, in auditoriums, and pool halls.

Separate but equal schools, however, proved a myth from the moment they were approved. The South as a whole spent almost three times as much per white pupil as per black one. Blacks had no say in any matters concerning the conditions of their schools or the curriculums they had to incorporate.

Equal education was not even a reality for black Americans until the summer of 1950. Linda Brown attended a school about a mile away from her home. She had to walk between the train tracks for a half dozen blocks where she caught the school bus.

One bright September morning, Linda's father, Oliver Brown, took his seven-year-old daughter for a walk. He led her by the hand for three and a half blocks until they reached the school for white children. Mr. Brown was directed to the principal's office. Linda waited outside the door for a few minutes while her father went inside.

He came back out a few minutes later. Linda could tell he was quite upset by the tone in his voice. The Browns had received a registration notice for all the families in the white zone to register for school. Mr. Brown simply being fed up with the long trip Linda had to make each day to the black school and the segregation rule, tried to enroll Linda in the white school.

The principal refused to enroll Linda because of the segregation rule. Mr. Brown took his case to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which then began the case bearing his name.

The lower courts had ruled both white and black schools were equal. Furthermore, the black children were provided with a school bus where the white children were not furnished with one. The courts did not take into account that the black children were often crowded on the bus and the schools were run down.

Mr. Brown's case was appealed all the way to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court took jurisdiction of the Brown case and set it down for argument at the beginning of the fall term for October 1952.

Almost two years after the

Supreme Court agree to hear the Brown case, the court rendered the verdict on May 17, 1954. The law of the land no longer recognized a separate equality. School children could no longer be segregated by race. No Americans were more equal than any other Americans.

Desegregation was not received very well in the South or throughout the nation.

Southern legal resistance was of two kinds. Most extreme were school closing and fund-cutoff laws. Many southern states adopted this type of practice.

The school closing experiment was reckless and foredoomed, as private education proved an inadequate source because the schools just didn't have the resources. Another practice the southern states tried was pupil-placement statues.

These statues were more successful, more ingenious, and more popular. The placement laws were supposed to help southern states make a gradual adjustment. Students were to be assigned by local authorities to public schools on non-racial criteria.

In practice, pupil-placement laws suited segregationist aims quite nicely but the statues were mainly a delaying device for desegregation.

However, in 1971, according to the Health, Education, and Welfare Department, 44 percent of black pupils attended majority white schools in the South as opposed to 28 percent who did so in the North and West. The South, seventeen years after Brown, became the United States' most integrated region.

Education of our children should be every Americans' priority.

Plessy versus Ferguson, Brown versus Board of Education, and desegregation/segregation of schools have paved a way for equal education of all children of the United States.

As leaders and parents, we need to know the struggles of a few have made our military and country the best and the most educated any country has ever seen.

We should encourage education at all levels and make sure no barriers come between learning and education.

All children regardless of race, color, gender, and religion should be given the best opportunity to complete the highest level of education possible.

The United States Armed forces and America will be better in the future as a result of equal education for everyone.

Editor's note: *The above information was compiled from the following works: Kluger, Richard. Simple Justice New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1975 and Wilkinson, Harvie J. From Brown to Bakke New York: Oxford, 1979.*

Hot tickets

Denise Allen
Staff Writer

In honor of Armed Forces Day, free tickets to Saturday's Hot Country Nights will be given out beginning at 11 a.m. today at the bowling alley.

"We thought the concert would be a good opportunity to honor local military personnel," said Jana Hill, public relations director for the American Red Cross of Augusta.

Sponsored by several local businesses, the concert is a fundraiser for the organization.

Country music's Mark Wills is the headliner. Blake Shelton and Rebecca Lynn Howard, a nominee for the Academy of Country Music's top new female artist, will also appear.

The Eighth Annual Hot Country Nights will be at 7 p.m. Saturday at Lake Olmstead Stadium. Gates open at 6 p.m. The fundraiser netted about \$60,000 last year for the Red Cross.

The American Red Cross of Augusta provides services to communities in Richmond and Columbia Counties such as disaster relief, safety training, Armed Forces Emergency Services and education on HIV/AIDS.

From July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002, the American Red Cross of Augusta helped 145 families of 542 people in single family disasters such as house fires; more than 4,700 people received training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, and more than 900 Armed Forces Emergency Service cases were handled.

While there have been a few showers on the concert in the past, Ms. Hill said the rain doesn't really seem to bother anyone. Many of the seats at the stadium are under roof as is the stage.

Tickets for the concert are \$18 in advance and \$23 at the gate and are available at www.tixonline.com, Harmon Optical, Koger-Walters Amoco and the American Red Cross of Augusta office.

For more information, call 724-8483.

Civilian police ensure EAMC patient safety

Jennifer M. Chipman
EAMC Public Affairs Officer

If you are a customer of Eisenhower Army Medical Center, you have probably noticed something new – civilian security officers.

“With patient safety being the medical center’s paramount objective, the commanding general authorized hiring personnel and establishing a full service security department,” said Robert O’Brien, EAMC Provost Marshal.

According to O’Brien the new security department includes 10 patrol officers, three shift supervisors and one field-training officer. It also has two credentialed physical security inspectors.

The security department operates its own dispatch center, while monitoring a state of the art closed circuit television and access control security systems. It also has a direct line into the center to call in any emergencies in the Medical Center. The number is 787-9911.

“These systems allow for greater security controls with less manpower,” O’Brien said.

“With the establishment of our new security department, visitors and staff members also will greatly benefit by the presence of these officers,” said O’Brien. With an in-depth knowledge of the health care industry, we combine superb, responsive customer service with a very high quality health care security protection program.”

When a medical center or any other health care organization accepts the responsibility for the medical care of a person, it also assumes the responsibility for his or her safety.

“That’s where the security depart-

ment comes in, said Officer Ron Phinizy. We make Eisenhower safe for our patients to come in to and our presence allow the clinical staff to focus on the job of treating the patients.”

The duties of the new security force closely resemble the duties of the civilian security force on Fort Gordon. EAMC’s officers perform missions like crime and loss prevention, physical security, and parking lot security. According to Eisenhower’s Provost Marshal, even though the goals and objectives overlap between security and law enforcement, there are significant differences in what is done at the medical center.

“Security is proactive in nature, we try to determine the possibility of criminal acts or violence taking place before they happen and require law enforcement,” said O’Brien. Our security officers spend much of their time conducting physical security inspections and checks.”

Along with at least six months of previous law enforcement or security experience, all of the security officers assigned to EAMC are required to attend and graduate from the Southeast Regional Medical Command’s Healthcare Security Academy headquartered here at Fort Gordon. This rigorous two-week course teaches subjects including preliminary investigations, community policing concepts, safety, hazardous spill response, and patrolling techniques.

Fort Gordon’s Judge Advocate General’s Office, Criminal Investigation Division and the Installation Operations Center were also instrumental in the overall success of the first class of the new academy according to O’Brien.

(Left to right) Officer Leo Espolong, Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Hunter, and Lt. Fernando Coral discuss parking issues in the Family Practice patient parking lot. The patrol vehicle is the newest addition to the Security Department at EAMC.



Courtesy photo

One of the most important skills the officers were taught was how to de-escalate a situation before they need to use their law enforcement skills.

“Our patients come to the medical center often in a state of high stress and anxiety,” said O’Brien. This can sometimes lead to verbal confrontations. Our officers are trained to go in and calm the situation before it has a chance to get out of control.”

In June all of the security officers assigned to the medical center will take the International Association of Healthcare Security and Safety national certification exam. This two-hour exam will test the officers’ knowledge of all aspects of secu-

rity, safety, risk management and emergency management tasks that they perform or support.

“The officers have been preparing for the exam for the past six months,” O’Brien said. The National Healthcare security certifications will ensure that Eisenhower remains a leader in patient safety, within the medical command.”

O’Brien is certified as a health care protection administrator by the International Association of Healthcare Security and Safety and is one of only two security managers in the U.S. Army Medical Command certified by the IAHS.

The most recent tool to ensure patient and staff safety has been the ad-

dition of its own security patrol vehicle.

“The white vehicle is decalred in red and blue to ensure visibility and quick recognition of its presence during hours of darkness and adds a new dimension to the security of our patients and staff coming and going to our parking lots,” O’Brien said.

The Security Department is located on the second floor in the medical center and operates 24 hours-a day 7 days-a-week.

“The safety of our patients and staff is very important to us,” said O’Brien. Our new Security Department is here to ensure everyone’s safety in and around the medical center every day.”



Commissaries change coupon rules

Rick Brink
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. – Commissaries will start enforcing new policy revisions June 1 that limit coupon use to only one per item unless otherwise specified on a coupon.

“We still gladly welcome the use of coupons. We’re only limiting the number of coupons a customer can use per item to what is specifically stated on the coupons. If the coupons state more

than one per item can be used, then we’ll accept them. If it doesn’t, then we’ll accept only one per item,” said Bob Vitikacs, the Defense Commissary Agency’s executive director for operations and product support.

The revised DeCA policy more accurately reflects manufacturers’ intent for coupon use, which has always been one coupon per item unless otherwise stated, Vitikacs said. DeCA policy had allowed commis-

saries to accept multiple coupons unless specifically stated as only “one per item.”

Under the new policy, customers can still take advantage of multiple couponing, but only through sales specifically allowing the practice. Customers can watch for advertising and in-store flyers to learn about these sales, and manufacturers will continue to provide coupons in the stores.

Give the gift of life - Be a blood donor

For more information on becoming a blood donor, call 787-3432.

Viewpoint

Information, Opinions, and Commentary

Babysitters—Worried that this is a big responsibility?

The American Red Cross Babysitter's Training course is an excellent opportunity to prepare young people for the many responsibilities associated with caring for infants and young children. This course, for youth ages 11–15, provides a range of injury prevention and safety skills as well as training in decision making, basic care, leadership and professionalism. It also includes essential first aid skills training to be used in the event of an emergency.

This training is ideally for the above age group. However, it should be noted that Fort Gordon policy as well as the state of Georgia requirement is that a babysitter must be 13 or older to be left alone and able to baby-sit younger children. A child can obtain certification through the course, but cannot take on babysitting responsibilities until 13 years of age.

Babysitter's Training is an interactive, multimedia, activity-based course carefully designed for youth and how they learn best. Each course participant receives a 176-page, full-color, content-rich Babysitter's Training Handbook. This teen-friendly resource is filled with valuable, easy-to-use information, including everything from basic care and injury prevention steps to more than 30 first aid action plans.

Training focuses

- Leadership skills
- Safety precautions and safe play guidelines
- Basic care
- Check-Call-Care (emergency action steps)
- First aid for bleeding emergencies.

The next babysitter's training will be on May 31 at 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Community Life Building. Participants must register and pay the \$25 course fee at the Red Cross office, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Third Floor, Room 3D-09. Since this will be a full day, participants are requested to bring their lunch. For further information, call 706-787-6311.

Safety first

Good babysitters are safety-conscious and take extra precautions to make sure the children are safe from accidents. If you need to talk on the phone, make sure you always know where the children are. Make calls short and always be attentive to the children.

Household safety

- Keep windows and outside doors locked and do not open them to see who is there.
- Be careful not to offer information over the phone. Do not tell anyone that you are alone.

- Keep the radio or TV turned low so that you can hear a cry or call from the child when he/she is sleeping.
- Put things away and out of reach of children when preparing food.
- Always know where the emergency exits are located.
- Look for potential hazards in the home such as open stairways, uncovered electrical outlets or sharp objects that are within reach.
- Keep gates across stairways to prevent falls from occurring.
- Keep children from playing near glass doors and windows.
- Put up medicine, cleaning products, pesticides, paint, and plants so that they are out of reach of young children. Many of these items can be quite dangerous for young children. If there is an emergency, call 911.

Child safety

- Never leave a young child alone while he/she is awake. Check on the child occasionally while they are sleeping.
- Never leave a baby unattended on a changing table, in a high chair, bath or walker. Use safety straps whenever they are available.
- Stay awake so you'll hear the children if they need you.

- Children will likely try you out to see how far you will let them go. Be firm in insisting that they play where they will be safe.
- Closets, medicine chests, drawers, and storage locations are not proper places for children to play. Also keep them away from stairways, hot objects (such as an iron or curling iron), stoves, microwaves and electrical outlets.
- Keep scissors or knives out of sight.
- Keep buttons, pins, cigarette stubs, money, small toy pieces, matches, and any other small particles off the floor and out of sight.
- If playing outdoors, know where their parents permit them to play. Watch for traffic and fire hazards, garden sprays, tools and unfriendly animals.
- Don't bathe the children unless

specifically asked to do so. If you do bathe the children, do it very carefully and never leave the child unattended. The water in the bathtub should be comfortable to touch, not too hot!

- Cut food into bite size pieces for toddlers and preschoolers.
- Make sure that children remain seated while eating.
- Try to avoid foods that are likely to cause a young child to choke such as popcorn, hot dogs, hard candy, and grapes.
- Make sure that doors to rooms such as the bathroom, basement and garage are closed.
- Remove plastic bags, beanbags or pillows that could cover a child's face and cut off breathing.
- Remove any strings or straps that might pose a strangulation hazard to a young child.

Personal safety

- Don't let haste or carelessness cause you to have an accident.
- Carry the baby or any package so that you can see where you are stepping.
- If you should suffer a cut or burn put the baby in his crib and take other children with you while you apply first aid.
- If you are annoyed, bothered or



in doubt about any unusual people or situations, call one of the people you are to contact in emergencies, or your own parents.

- If you get sick while babysitting, call your parents or another qualified babysitter to take over for you. Then contact the parents to let them know of the change in plans for their final approval.

Toy safety

- Put up toys with objects small enough to swallow when watching a child under age four.
- Check stuffed animals to make sure that button eyes are not loose enough to come off and be swallowed.
- Put up toys with sharp edges and sharp points as well as toys that shoot objects.
- Look for toys with long strings and cords that may strangle an infant or young child. Put these toys in a place where young children cannot reach them.
- Put up electronic toys that might burn or shock young children.
- Make sure that the toys the children are playing with are appropriate for their ages. Toys that are safe for older children can be quite dangerous when played with by younger children.

Outdoor safety

- Children are usually unaware of the risks that are present in playing outdoors. You can teach them to play safe when they are playing outside.
- Keep children from walking in front or back of a moving swing or glider.
- Place young children in the center of a swing. Make sure that they are capable of hanging onto the swing or place them in a swing designed for infants and toddlers.
- Be cautious of hanging rings. Some young children are able to place their entire head through the ring creating the potential for being hung.
- Explain your list of outdoor rules to children. Your list might include: no pushing other children off a swing or piece of playground equipment, no swinging empty swings or gliders, no climbing up the front of the slide, no walking in front or back of a moving swing, no twisting swing chains, no rough playing on the equipment, and only one person can be on a piece of equipment at one time if it is designed for use by one person.
- Be extremely cautious of swimming pools, wading pools, spas, and hot tubs even when a pool has a cover and is closed. Keep your eyes on the children at all times. If a child is missing, immediately check the pool to make sure the child has not fallen in it.
- Make sure that gates are locked, and ladders are up in pool areas.
- Learn CPR and first aid practices in case you might need it when watching children. Learn the phone number for emergency medical service in your location.

Editor's note: *The above information was obtained from Fort Gordon's American Red Cross Office and the following website: www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/babysitting/safety.html*

Feedback

How does it feel being one of Freedom Park Elementary's first graduates?



"I think it's an honor since the school was just built. We worked hard to achieve the goals our parents wanted us to accomplish."

Latasha Harris,
Freedom Park Elementary graduate



"I think we are great role models for being Freedom Park Elementary's first graduates to future classes."

Anna Rosario,
Freedom Park Elementary graduate



"Every time I think about graduation, I get a 'warmness' inside because we are moving on to a new grade and a new school. I also feel (bad) for other students, because their parents won't be there since they are deployed."

Kiana French
Freedom Park Elementary graduate (salutatorian)



"It's an honor because we are the first."

Dexter Manning
Freedom Park Elementary graduate



"I'm really happy, but some parents are deployed so we really have to spice up graduation and we still have to go up there smiling."

Natascha Echols
Freedom Park Elementary graduates

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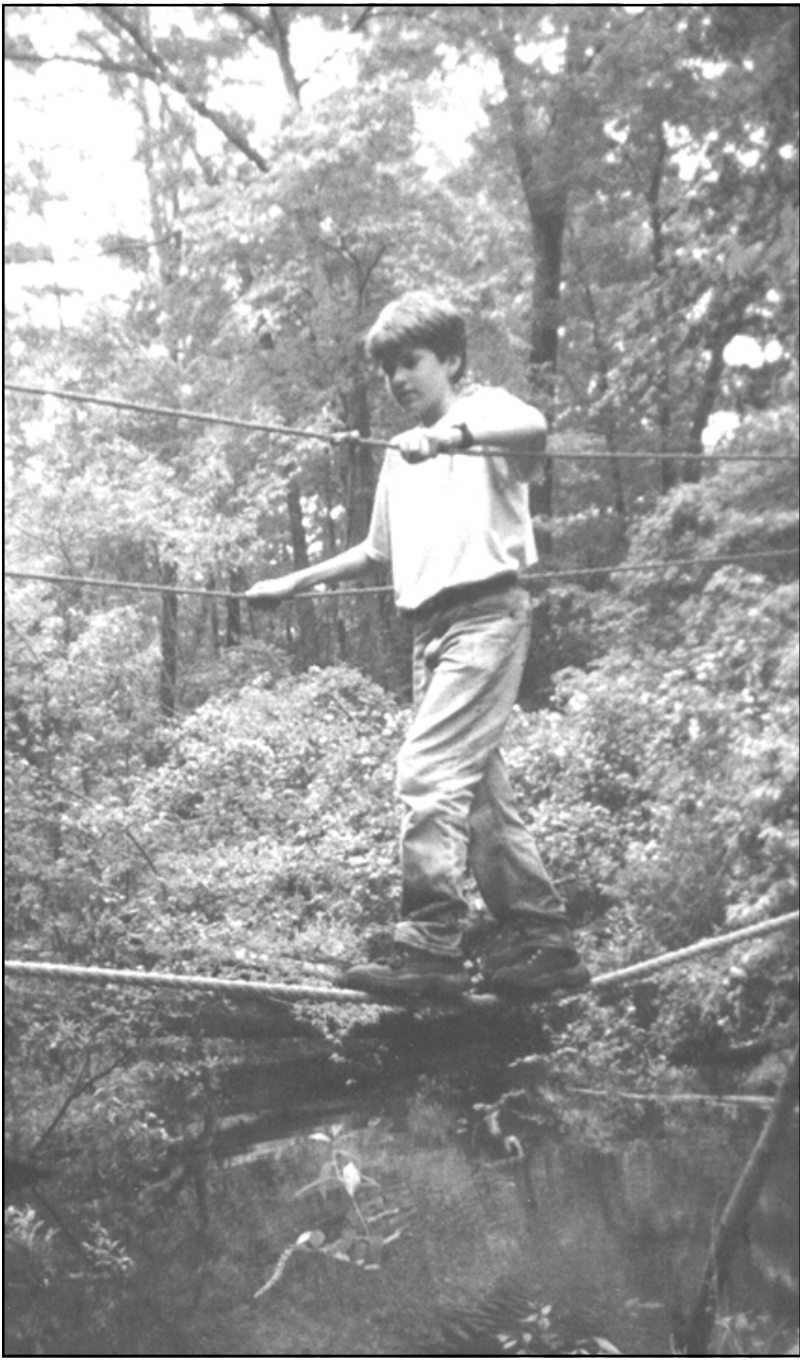
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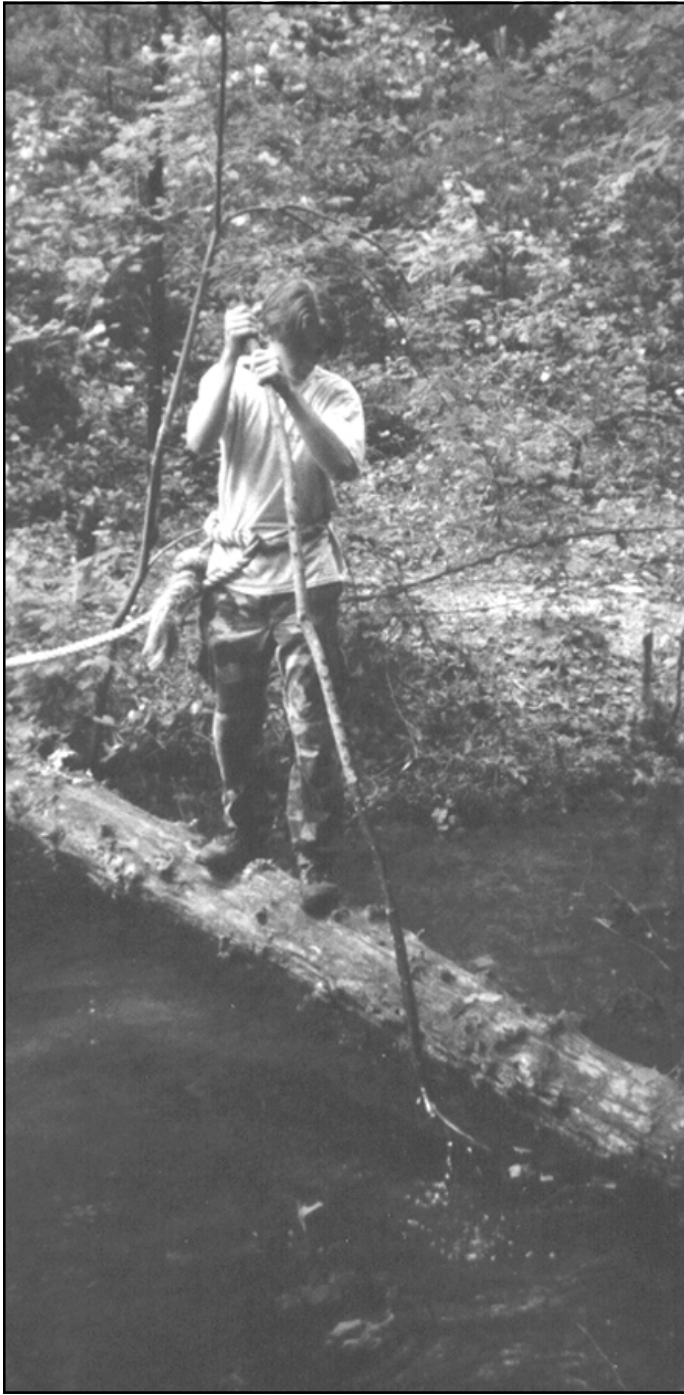
Spectrum

Scouting for fun!



Photos by Capt. Ray DeLucio

(Left) Fort Gordon Boy Scout Troop 99 Senior Patrol Leader Aaron Lax guides himself across a stream in the training areas on post using a three-rope bridge the scouts constructed. (Right) Troop 99 Boy Scout Andrew Garner also walks the tight-rope on the bridge. All the activities were part of a campout here on post May 2 to 4.



Fort Gordon Boy Scout Troop 99 Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Franklin Garner uses a stick for balance as he crosses the stream.



Fort Gordon Boy Scout Troop 99 Assistant Scoutmaster Rob Lenter gets into the action, using his whole body to cross on a single rope.

Troop 99 is at it again

Capt. Ray DeLucio
Special to The Signal

Fort Gordon Boy Scout Troop 99 was at it again! On the night of May 2, the scouts, led by Senior Patrol Leader Aaron Lax and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader Franklin Garner led the troop through a very challenging and rigorous campout in the training areas on post. The campout began May 2 when the scouts were given a map that included 15 different way points that they had to navigate through in order to locate their campsite.

The scouts started the evening by packing all the group and individual gear that they would need to include tents, cooking utensils, food, and clothing items. Once the scouts were assembled, the nine scouts hike over 6 miles through dense woods, trails, and a swampy area found in training area 1 east of Gordon Terrace. Throughout the hike, the scouts utilized their land navigation skills that included orienteering and terrain association throughout the extensive network of trails and firebreaks found in training areas 1 and 2.

Along the way, other challenges presented themselves. They had to overcome both personal obstacles and natural obstacles. The group learned the importance of maintaining group integrity and accountability especially when they had to confront a simulated injury to one of their members. Star Scout Corderra Lee simulated being an injured hiker that needed to be evacuated from the woods on a stretcher.

The other scouts had to treat his injuries for a broken leg and dislocated shoulder while constructing a stretcher to extract him from the woods. This was compounded by some of nature's obstacles. Nature gave an added sense of urgency to the troop, as they had to combat insects and wildlife along with a very powerful lightning storm that preceded this past weekend's thunderstorm.

The morning of May 3 the scouts started out before 8 a.m. to a new location. The primary focus for this day was to construct a three-rope bridge to get themselves and their equipment across a stream east of Boardman Lake.

When the scouts navigated themselves to the correct spot, they found several large ropes in the area that they used to cross a 40 foot span. Life Scout Andrew De Lucio taught the younger scouts how to properly tie the knots and lashings necessary for the construction of the rope bridge. After about three hours of effort, the bridge was completed and ready for use.

Capt. Mike Ryan, an adult volunteer who is currently a student in the Signal Captains Career Course, was the first individual to cross the rope bridge. Each of the boys, all of the adult leaders, and all of the troop's equipment successfully crossed the bridge without anyone getting wet. The scouts were even treated to Jennifer Lenter, the assistant scoutmaster's wife, making it across unscathed.

After lunch and successful attempts of crossing the rope bridge, Troop 99 helped the Officers' Wives' Club clean up the flea market site.

The OWC is one of our most faithful sponsors and has assisted several of the scouts in their Eagle Scout projects. The evening of May 3, the Scouts concluded the campout with the traditional campfire that included snacks, songs, skits, and stories.



(Above) Fort Gordon Boy Scout Troop 99 Boy Scouts Andrew DeLucio (left) and James Robertson (right) start tying the knots to prepare the rope bridge. (Below) With the knots secure, the Boy Scouts work together and combine their collective strength to begin pulling their bridge tight.



Are we lost? The Boy Scouts try to orient themselves during a land navigation exercise that was part of their campout. Naturally, they figured it out and returned to camp.

“While I am waiting...”

While I am waiting ... This has been a hard week. One of my dear friends has started to give up. She is angry in a way that is hard to dispel, and she is going to leave the area and go to a place she feels will bring her comfort.

She is taking her child, who is also a support network for one of my children, which is how we met. I am sad. I do not want her to leave, as she is a part of my world, and has been there for me, but that is the selfish sad.

The other sad is I feel some of her pain, though I process it differently.

She is angry with the Army, that other “woman” in a military marriage, which takes all your spouse’s time away from you and your family.

The other entity, that consumes his thoughts when he is not at work. That job he would do anything for, including dying for, which is the scariest part of all of this war.

She is angry cause he has taken her from here to there, and back again. And over the years she has left jobs behind that could have brought promotions, and could have lead to careers, and it has always been his job that has come first.

She does not want to stay here. Everything seems too

difficult. She doesn’t seem to care at the moment if there is a home for her husband to come to when this war is over. She is so unhappy.

I wish I knew the right words to say. That sometimes the depth of your anger or sadness equals the strength of your love.

That the hurt will be massaged with time. That it is an honor to serve your country and that her husband is a true hero.

He is fighting for a noble and honorable cause.

But through all those words, when you cut to the chase, she is in pain, she is sad, she is lonely, and in love. She misses her husband and is trying to figure out a way to deal with it, and right now that way is different than mine.

I write about it. I try to share it with others, to make it easier for others so they see they are not alone, someone else is having the same experience, and offer hope, no one is alone.

The loneliness that your spouse is gone is hard to describe to someone who is not going through it.

There is a frustration that when something goes good, when you want to share a moment, you have to do it in words, through letters and emails, not in any actions, with any warmth with an-

other person.

It is lonely at night when you are alone. It is lonely when your child has a bad day at school, and you have to shoulder the brunt of the scolding from the teacher.

When you have to fix the washer that is broken, get the oil changed in the car, figure out math homework every night. I try to remember when something good happens it deepens the love I have for my husband, it strengthens the bond of marriage we have. And even though there are times I am so angry too that he is with his other love, the Army, the other being I have to share him with, I realize after a lot of soul searching, he would not be the honorable man I married, the man I admire and share my life with, if he did not do this job.

And so, I wish my friend would see through the pain, and come to the realization that this war is not for forever. Her spouse will come home, and he needs a home to come to. I hope some of the pain subsides.

She is my friend, and I care for her so I want things to work out for the best. As she deals with her pain, I try to keep my grief in perspective, I muddle through my sadness. I hang on to the love my husband and I share. It is the love that

tides me over ... *While I am waiting.*

While I am waiting... This is going to sound silly, and it might be, but it is happening, and I would like to think I am not losing my mind. I keep forgetting things. And I do not think I am that old that I should have “senior moments”—I hope not.

I keep telling myself it is because there is so much on my mind.

I am always thinking about what is going on over in the sands of Iraq and Kuwait. I would not say I am worried, but it is something that is present.

My civilian friends do not understand the difference and they think I am stressed out. I don’t think I am stressed. I am thinking a lot. More than I used to.

When he was home, the things to think about were a lot simpler. I didn’t have to worry if he was eating well, sleeping through the night, or sleeping in a sandbox bed. I didn’t have to worry if he was safe.

Those top the list, then there is all that other stuff I have already talked about. So if I forget a few things I should be ok, there is a lot to ponder lately.

And it is not the normal forgetting clothes in the dryer, or forgetting where a pair of shoes or clothing is,

it is bigger than that.

Things I usually do, like make school lunch, were getting hard to remember some days. I made it through the end of the school year, thankfully without sending an empty lunch box, or one with things in it my child would have thought were totally weird, though

I did come close a couple of times as the school year came to a close. Like putting in two of something in one lunch box, and nothing in the other, or nothing to drink, or forgetting that thingy that keeps lunch cool.

During the summer the children may have to fend for themselves, when it comes to lunch...if the deployment lingers on, I might forget lunch completely.

I can go to the commissary with a nice list of things to purchase and come home missing two or three of the items. I know I walked by them in the store, how come they didn’t end up in my cart?

Was I thinking they were something special connected to another event when my husband was home? Was it because the item is a favorite food of his, so I blocked it out for the moment? I just wonder why my mind wanders some days.

I forget when I have made arrangements with friends

and remember at the last moment, which can be slightly embarrassing. I remember with moments to spare of unit get-togethers, and I like attending those.

It seems my mind is full of a great number of thoughts, and well, things just seem to filter out in weird ways during this deployment. I have even missed sending a relative a birthday card, thank goodness for e-cards, or I would have been in another embarrassing situation.

And then there is always the last minute phone call, which I have used on a couple of occasions. It bugs me, cause usually I am really good about getting cards to people on time.

Oh well, a fallout of deployment, or so I would like to think these days. We shall see when he comes home if I get any better next year.

Now as summer unfolds and we move into a new schedule, I am afraid I will forget something else, since forgetting seems to be a pattern that is emerging in my life. Thankfully, I haven’t forgotten any children, yet ... *While I am waiting.*

Editor’s note: “*While I am waiting*” is a series of comments and events from the spouse of a deployed soldier who wishes to remain anonymous.

A tribute to military spouses

Col. Steven Arrington
Special to The Signal

Over the years I have talked a lot about military spouses, how special they are and the price they pay for freedom too.

The funny thing about it, is most military spouses don’t consider themselves different from other spouses. They do what they have to do, bound together not by blood or merely friendship, but with a shared spirit whose origin is in the very essence of what love truly is. Is there truly a difference? You have to decide for yourself.

Other spouses get married and look forward to building equity in a home and putting down family roots.

Military spouses get married and know they’ll live in base housing or rent, and their roots must be short so they can be transplanted frequently.

Other spouses decorate a home with flair and personal-

ity that will last a lifetime.

Military spouses decorate a home with flare tempered with the knowledge that no two base houses have the same size windows or same size rooms. Curtains have to be flexible and multiple sets are a plus. Furniture must fit like puzzle pieces.

Other spouses have immaculate living rooms and are seldom used.

Military spouses have immaculate living room/dining room combos. The coffee table got a scratch or two moving from Germany, but it still looks pretty good.

Other spouses say good-bye to their spouse for a business trip and know they won’t see them for a week. They are lonely, but can survive.

Military spouses say good-bye to their deploying spouse and know that they won’t see them for a month, or for a remote, a year. They are lonely, but they will survive.

Other spouses, when a washer hose blows off, call Maytag and then write a check out for getting the hose reconnected.

Military spouses will cut the water off and fix it themselves.

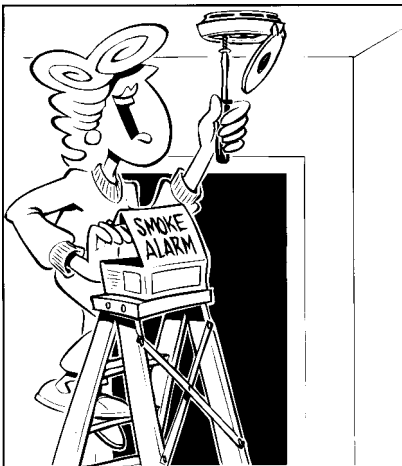
Other spouses get used to saying hello to friends they see all the time.

Military spouses get used to saying good-bye to friends made the last two years.

Other spouses worry about whether their child will be class president next year.

Military spouses worry about whether their child will

be accepted in yet another new school next year and whether that school will be the worst in the city...again.



only count on each other; because they realize that the flag has to come first if freedom is to survive. It has to be that way.

Other spouses put up yellow ribbons when the troops

are imperiled across the globe and take them down when the troops come home.

Military spouses wear yellow ribbons around their hearts and they never go away.

Other spouses worry about being late for Mom’s Thanksgiving dinner.

Military spouses worry about getting back from Japan in time for Dad’s funeral.

And other spouses are touched by the television program showing an elderly lady putting a card down in the front of a long, black wall that has names on it. The card simply says, “Happy Birthday, Sweetheart. You would have been sixty today.”

A military spouse is the lady with the card. The Wall is the Vietnam Memorial.

I would never say military spouses are better or worse than other spouses are. But I will say there is a difference. And I will say that our coun-

try asks more of military spouses than of other spouses. And I will say without hesitation that military spouses pay just as high a price for freedom as do their active duty husbands or wives. Perhaps the price they pay is even higher.

Dying in service to our country isn’t near as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them. God Bless our military spouses for all they freely give...And God Bless America

Editor’s note: *If you are a military spouse, and would like more information or support, please contact Army Community Service, Darling Hall, Room 367 at 791-3579. The following websites have great information for military spouses as well: www.sgtmoms.com, www.mfrc.calib.com, www.thecombatzone.org and www.operationmilitarypride/spouselinks.htm.*

Officers' Wives' Club gives back

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

The Officers' Wives' Club held their annual awards ceremony May 8 at 6 p.m. in the Gordon Club on post. It was a chance for the club to "give away all the money they earned in the last year."

Holly Bullock, the president of the OWC, said the organization gave away \$19,000 in community service awards, awards to charity organizations and military student scholarships. The money donated was raised via sales from the OWC thrift shop behind the Post Exchange, and through spots sold to vendors at the two flea markets the OWC holds each year.

Bullock, who is winding down her year's term as OWC president, said even though volunteers from the club worked hard to raise the money, the real satisfaction they gain is from giving it out to worthy individuals and organizations within Fort Gordon and the local community.

"That's what we do, we're a service organization," Bullock said. "Anytime you shop at the thrift shop behind the PX, you're helping us. Everything we do, though, happens because of volunteers."

Susie Waldman, last year's OWC president, and chairperson of the welfare and services awards portion of the ceremony, an-

nounced the organizations from Fort Gordon and the local community who were receiving money from the OWC, and presented them with their checks. A total of \$9,500 was donated to the following welfare and services organizations on behalf of the OWC:

From Fort Gordon: The American Red Cross, the OWC Quilt Group, the Fisher House, Boy Scout Troop 99, the Chaplain's Fund, the Christmas House, and the Exceptional Family Member Program.

Other Military Affiliates: The Army Distaff Hall, the Augusta VA Center, the National Military Family Association, the Civil Air Patrol, and the Southeastern Association of Paralyzed Veterans.

Augusta Community Organizations: Child Enrichment, the Golden Harvest Food Bank, Junior Achievement, the Augusta Rescue Mission, Youth Challenge Academy, the Augusta Training Shop for the Handicapped, and the Alzheimer's Association.

Nancy Moore, the chairperson of the scholarship portion of the ceremony, offered some remarks about the students selected for this year's scholarships. She said the recipients of the scholarship money donated by the OWC were a mix of about half enlisted service member's children and half officer's children.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon commanding general, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, an honorary member of the OWC, was on hand to present the scholarships to the excited high school students.

"When I look at what these youngsters have already accomplished, it's amazing," Hicks said during the ceremony.

This year's OWC scholarship awards winners were: Valerie Salem, \$500 Continuing Education Award, Lawrence Robertson, \$500 Marni Glista Award, DeNeiya Goodly, \$750, Erin Stinson, \$750, Jamie Rush, \$1,000, Alessia Perry, \$1,200, Jarrett Gilbert, \$1,500, Tiffany Umlauf, \$1,800, and Molly McFerran, \$2000.

The First Command Financial Planning Group also gave out a \$1,000 scholarship to a mili-

tary high school student.

With the presentation of the award to this year's recipient, Timothy DeBow, First Command has now donated \$24,000 in scholarship money at the OWC awards ceremony to Fort Gordon students over the years.

Scholarship winner Lawrence Robertson, a senior at the Davidson Fine Arts School who plans to attend the University of Georgia in physical therapy, was excited about receiving his OWC scholarship.

"It feels good to know my hard work in school paid off in the end," he said.

The OWC has over 70 active members, who are all spouses of active duty officers or retired officers. It is also open to husbands of female officers, and has had male members in the past.



Photos by Spc. Ryan Matson

(Left) Area band Shinebox performs on post under the gazebo in Freedom Park during Military Spouse Appreciation Day May 10.

(Below) Ladies enjoy a free manicure, courtesy of Nails by Kris. Free chair massages, performed by Therapeutic Massage, located in Gym 6 on post, were also offered as part of the celebration.



Kids climb MWR's rock wall.

Fort Gordon honors its spouses

Post holds first ever Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

A couple of days after the Officers' Wives' Club was showing its appreciation to the local community, the Fort Gordon community took a day to appreciate their own military spouses.

The first Military Spouse Appreciation Day was held from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on May 10 in conjunction with Mother's Day weekend, at Freedom Park on post. The event was sponsored by Morale Welfare and Recreation, and was the idea of marketing director Kim Lyons. She said she was seeking a day to recognize the love and support provided by the wives and husbands of service members on post.

"They always have cake and punch to recognize military spouses, but we wanted to do something on a larger scale," Lyons said.

She said with the help of several organizations on post, including the Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Army Community Service and Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers her idea became a reality and a success.

Over 500 people attended the event, which featured a host of attractions.

First, there was the music. Local band Shinebox, out of Augusta, provided hours of musical entertainment for the families and soldiers who strolled around Freedom Park or relaxed in the shade. It was the group's first appearance on Fort Gordon, and one drummer Beasley said he was happy to participate.

"They (the military) do what

they do so we can do what we do," he said. "I am able to play music and live as a free citizen because of their service. I was laid up in surgery and watching TV a little while ago, and all I saw was movie stars downing the war, and I thought to myself, that's just wrong. It inspired me, and we're happy to be here."

The band can also be seen playing downtown at the Red Lion Pub and Cross Roads and will also be the featured entertainment at the Beach Blast May 24 at the Fort Gordon Recreation Center.

Other musical entertainment included Fort Gordon family member Nelita Johnson, who sang a song she composed entitled "For the Soldiers" accapella under the gazebo in the park. Local children's dance troupe the Dynamic Steppers also performed.

A host of booths and displays were scattered throughout Freedom Park. One of the big hits was a booth offering free manicures from Nails by Kris, which had a long line of military wives and other people waiting to get a manicure.

Lia Chavez was one of the people who got a manicure. When asked why she came to the event, she replied, "Because I heard about free manicures, and stuff," and then added, with a smile, "Oh yeah, and to appreciate my mother too."

Free massages, courtesy of Therapeutic Massage located in Gym 6 on post, were also offered, as was a free car wash.

Renee McClellan, who works for the Amry and Air Force Exchange Service, received a free

massage.

"That was wonderful," she said.

"They need to do more things like this. Many of the spouses of military and civilian workers do jobs that bring in most of the profit on post.

A booth set up by EAMC and the Wellness Center on post talked about healthy lifestyle choices and included nutrition care info on the diet drug ephedra as well as information on diseases caused by insects, and how they can be prevented. The booth even had live baby mosquitos and some dead insects in glass tubes for people to look at and learn to identify.

"Now I know to empty any stagnant water I may find in my yard," Melody Brown, who works at the Health and Wellness Center, said.

The MWR Rock Wall and a huge inflated playhouse for children to jump in provided kids with entertainment throughout the day. Many families also played bingo under the pavilion.

Members of the Signal Officers Basic Course also contributed to the celebration by cooking hotdogs, and not just a few.

Over 800 hot dogs were consumed over the course of Military Spouse Appreciation Day. The hot dogs and potato chips were provided free of charge to Military Spouse Appreciation Day attendees courtesy of the commissary, and free soda products were provided by Augusta Coca Cola.

After seeing so many happy military spouses attend this year's Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Lyons said she hopes to make it an annual event.



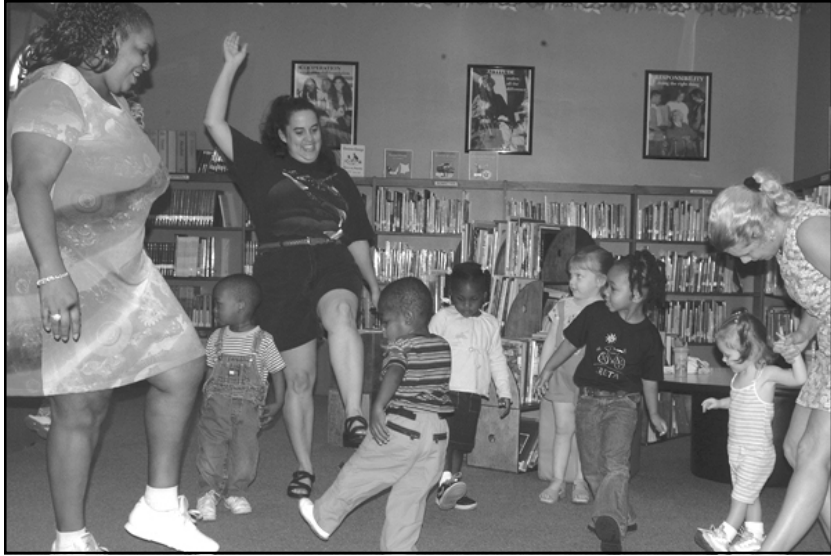
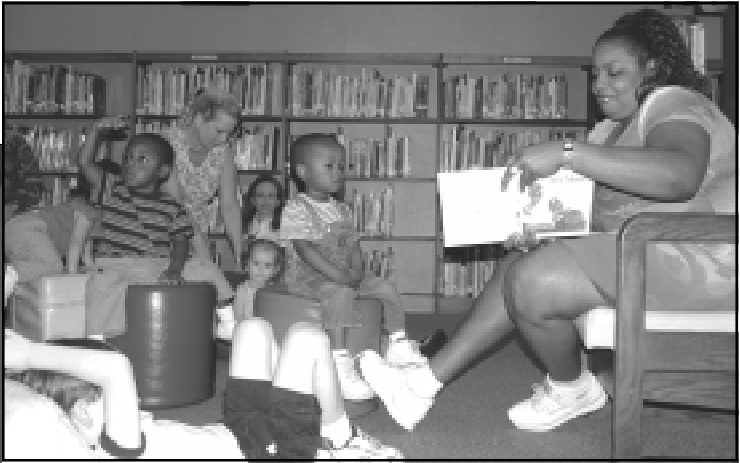
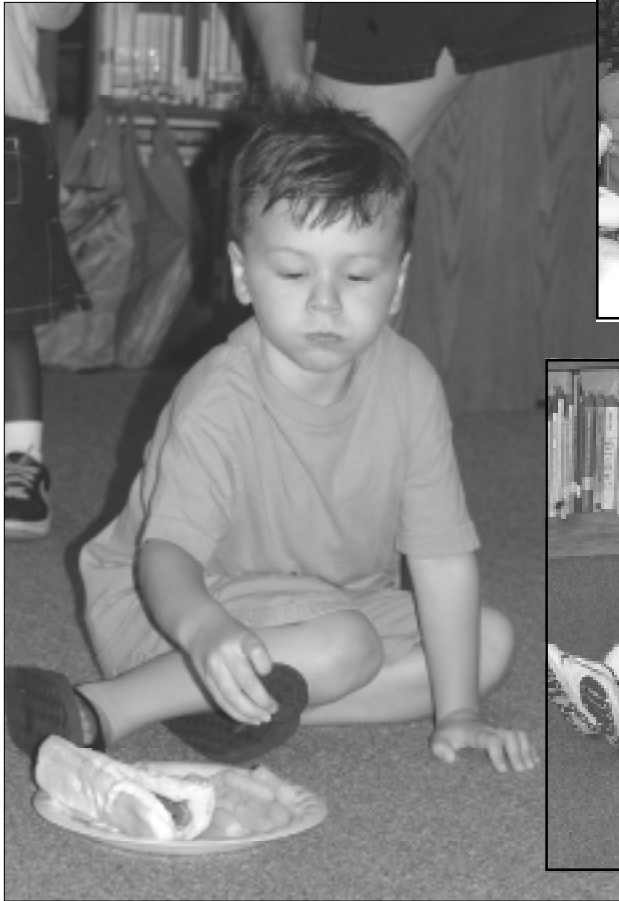
Getting a job

Photos by Staff Sgt. Pam Lyons

(Right) Elsie Gonzalez-Ellefson, a family member, fills out an application at one of the 54 job booths. The Army Career and Alumni Program held a job fair on May 5 at the Reserve Center, with an estimated 556 people showing up for the event. (Above) Jenna Powell, a representative from Georgia Power, interviews Milton Jefferies. Jefferies just retired out of the military and said the job fair came along at just the right time.



Story Hour ends



The Woodworth Library hosted a hotdog cookout to mark the last day of Story Hour, May 7. The program began in September and ran for eight months, said Program Director Liz Knight. (Clockwise from bottom left) The festivities begin with the Hokey Pokey dance; Chip Meyers, 4, contemplates the proper angle of attack for his hotdog; Joyce Daniels reads Leo Lionli's "It's Mine," to the attentive audience; finally, Nathan Robinson, 4, Aaleyah Obleton, 3, and Rae-Anna Lampron, 20 months, appear to contemplate the program's success. Knight said the library's next family activity will be the Summer Reading Program which begins in June.

Press On

Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Awdykowyz
Chaplain Resource Manager

Philippians 3:14

Many of us have heard stories about people who exceed their human limitations against overwhelming odds; with grit and determination they believe in something and it is accomplished. It is absolutely amazing! What do you think would happen in our own personal lives if we had the grit and determination to believe everything that God says is true? I mean to believe in such a way that it would dramatically affect how we live. The Apostle Paul has told us this theological truth of who we are in Christ. We stand before a holy God in perfect righteousness. We stand in righteousness not because of how we performed last week or how well we did ministry. We stand in righteousness because the very righteousness of God was credited to our account when we trusted Jesus Christ by faith. There is often however, a large gap between knowing this theological truth and how we live out our lives on a practical basis. And I believe that it is this gap that causes us to often feel more like failures than successes as Christians. Philippians 3:12-16 tells us what Paul did with that gap that caused him to "press on" in a way that is life changing. We who know Jesus are on a spiritual journey, where perseverance is significantly more important than perfection. We need to "press on"—an athletic term that means to push, stretch, and take ourselves to the limit to accomplish the goal. In other words, we persevere as we continue down the path. We haven't arrived yet. But we want to be more like Jesus today than we were yesterday...and more like Him today than a year ago. Now we all know that we are going to have some really

great days, some absolutely terrible days, and a lot of days in between the two. Just like great athletes put their failures behind them, we shouldn't dwell on what lies behind—both failures and successes. We let it go. Why? Because what lies ahead is far more glorious than what is in the past. Just as in the APFT 2 mile run, we cheer the progress along the way as we draw closer to the goal. The prize of the "upward call" refers to the moment of being called in front of the judge's stand to be crowned the champion. What causes Paul to forget the past and press on to run the race? It is knowing that when it's done, he will stand before Jesus Christ as the judge and be crowned a champion. Paul is thinking everyday, "I'm in the process of becoming a champion, a champion so magnificent that God will put me on display. I believe it and embrace it, so that no matter what happens, I just keep pressing on." I wonder what it would be like to have a video of our race in life? We could watch it and see how we emerged as champions at the end. We could go back and process all of the difficulties and trials of our race through the filter of understanding what God was accomplishing in and through us. Yes, it was hard, sometimes very difficult, unfair, and at times seemingly impossible. But in the end, I did emerge a champion! God has promised to make you into a champion—a trophy of His grace. He will put you on display in the heavenlies, and the angels will gasp at the magnificence of what you have become. That trophy is what God is making you into, and that is where the journey will end. So on those good days, celebrate. On those lousy days, don't accept defeat. You are becoming a champion by the power and grace of God. Press on!

Spotlight on:

Name: Sgt. 1st Class Lamont Roberts
Unit: Company C, 73rd Ordnance Battalion
Hometown: Philadelphia, Penn.
What do you enjoy most about being a drill sergeant?
The opportunity to train and lead soldiers, and to have a positive influence on their future.
How long at Fort Gordon?
1 year and six months
What do you want to accomplish in the military?
I want to continue to climb the ranks of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps and become a brigade command sergeant major.



Sgt. 1st Class Roberts

Community Events

Adolphous Greely Chapter meeting

Adolphous Greely Chapter of the Signal Corps Regimental Association is having a General Membership Meeting and Social on **June 4** at 4:30 p.m. in the Gordon Club North Wing.

Nominations will be taken and the meeting will also have board member elections for the upcoming year. Free food is available.

For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Dempsey at 791-1761.

Farewell luncheon

A farewell/retirement luncheon for Lt. Col. Mary A. Altman is **May 29**, in the North Ballroom of the Gordon Club, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Meal choices include oven-roasted chicken, schnitzel or pasta primavera. Meals cost \$10.

RSVP with payment by **May 16** to Stephanie Reamey at 791-2634.

Road closings

The following roads and parking areas will be closed due to continuing work by DPW.

May 12 - 19, The intersection at 27th Street and B Street will be closed.

May 14 - 21, 26th Street between Chamberlain Avenue and B Street will be closed.

May 20 - 27, B Street north of Building 25705 will be closed.

Change of Command Ceremony

Lt. Col. Kari L. Everett will relinquish command of the 67th Signal Battalion to Lt. Col. Paul W. LaDue.

The ceremony begins at 9 a.m. **May 20** on Barton Field.

For more information, call Arlene Warren at 791-6963/6956.

Memorial Day events

Jackson, S.C. holds a pre-Memorial Day concert **Saturday**, from 1 - 6 p.m. at Thorton Park, Silvertown Street, Jackson, South Carolina.

The Signal Corps Band will perform an hour during this time frame.

Eatonton, Ga. has a "Celebrating Patriotism" event **Thursday** at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse Square (corner of Madison and Jefferson streets), Eatonton, Georgia

The Signal Corps Band will perform and guest speaker is Col. Michael DeBow.

Marine Corps League (James L. Hammons Detachment #939) participates in the Aiken Memorial Day Parade **May 24** at 1 p.m.

The parade begins at Laurens Street (downtown), Aiken, S.C.

The Signal Corps Band and color guard will be in the parade and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Terry will serve as one of the judges for the parade.

A marching unit from the 15th Signal Brigade will also participate.

The Columbia County Memorial Day Red, White and Blue Celebration is **May 24** from 6 to 9 p.m. across from the Evans Government Complex on Ronald Reagan Drive.

The Signal Corps Band will perform, 110 man marching unit from the 15th Sig Bde, flags, DCA stage mobile and K-9 demo.

Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks will speak. Congressman Charlie Norwood will also speak. Local Girl Scouts will carry pictures of deployed family members/soldiers. Fireworks display begins at 9 p.m.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home will have a Memorial Day ceremony, **May 26** at 9 a.m. at the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home courtyard, 1101 Fifteenth Street, Augusta, GA. Col Bernard Kulifay is the guest speaker.

Bellevue Memorial Gardens will host an observance featuring a Fort Gordon bugler and color guard, 10 a.m. **May 26**, at 4501 Wrightsboro Road in Augusta, Ga.

The Augusta/CSRA Area Veterans Activities Office conducts its Memorial Day ceremony **May 26** at 11 a.m. at the Veterans of All Wars Monument, at the corner of Fourth and Broad streets in Augusta, Ga. This event will feature a bugler, color guard and firing squad. Col Michael Guthrie will speak.

McCormick County Veterans' Affairs will hold a Memorial Day observance **May 30** from 11 a.m. to noon at the McCormick County Courthouse, Highway 28, McCormick, S.C.

There will be a color guard and Col. Craig Doerer, will be the guest speaker.

West Point applications

Each year, approximately 150 Regular Army soldiers are offered admission to the United States Military Academy at West Point or the United States Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Interested soldiers must be U.S. citizens, be unmarried, with no legal obligation to support dependents, be a high school graduate, not be 23 years of age prior to 1 July of the year entering USMA (not be 22 years of age prior to 1 July of the year entering the Prep School), be of high moral character and have a sincere interest in attending West Point and becoming an Army officer.

Maj. Cliff Hodges, from the West Point Admissions Office, will be at Olmstead Hall on **May 29 and 30** from 1:30 -3 p.m.to give an admissions brief to all soldiers on the process of making application. Interested soldiers should contact their chain of command and arrange for time to attend briefing.

Soldiers who meet the basic eligibility requirements listed above, have achieved SAT scores greater than 1050 or ACT composite score of 23 or higher, and achieved good grades in a college preparatory high school curriculum are especially encouraged to apply.

All application requirements must be met by March 15, 2004 to be considered for an appointment to West Point or the Prep School in July 2004. Interested soldiers should contact Maj. Hodges at DSN: 688-5780 or 914-938-5780 or tc2324@usma.edu.

Gordon Terrace town hall meeting

Gordon Terrace Housing Area Residents will be having a Town Hall meeting on **May 20** from 6 to 8 p.m. in Alexander Hall. It is a mandatory event for all service members who reside in Gordon Terrace. All others are cordially invited. Children are welcome.

SMA scholarships

The Sergeants Major Association of Fort Gordon is offering scholarships for the graduating class of 2003. Applicant must be a legal dependent of an active, reserve, retired, or deceased military person living in the CSRA. Applications can be attain from any command sergeant major or sergeant major. The application deadline is **June 24**.

For more information, call Sgt. Maj. Alfred Simmons at 791-7985.

Technology expo

The Fort Gordon Technology Expo will be held on **June 4** at the Gordon Club, North Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All personnel are invited to attend.

More than 25 exhibitors will be on hand demonstrating the latest computer hardware, software and services. There is no fee to attend and complimentary refreshments will be provided. Giveaways will be available while supplies last.

The event is sponsored by Directorate of Contracting and hosted by National Small Business Council, Inc.

For more information, please contact Anne Slobodien at slobodien@ncsievents.com.

Recruit the recruiter

The Recruit the Recruiter Team from Headquarters, U.S. Army Recruiting Command, Fort Knox, Ky. will brief on the challenges, benefits and opportunities of becoming a recruiter.

This briefing in no way obligates you for recruiting duty, so attendance by all NCOs is highly encouraged. A personal interview can be conducted by the team following the briefing to determine initial qualifications on all NCOs interested in applying.

Briefings will be held **June 17 and 18** in Olmstead Hall at 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. on June 17 and 1 and 3 p.m. on June 18.

More information can be found at the web site www.usarec.army.mil or 800-223-3735 ext 61028.

CMU

Central Michigan University's College of Extended Learning at Fort Gordon offers a master of science in administration degree with concentrations in information resource management, health services administration and human resource administration. Registration for classes starting in July (Term V) will be held **May 19 -June 6**.

Classes being offered are: financial aspects of health services; system analysis and design; environments in administration; and integrative analysis.

For additional information, call 798-5739 or visit the CMU office in the Fort Gordon Education Center, Bldg. 21606, Barnes Avenue.

Babysitter training

The American Red Cross will offer Babysitter's Training for teens on **May 31**, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Training will include what to do if a child is choking, safety in the home and what to do in an emergency. Participants will need to bring lunch. Training will be held at the Community Life Center, Building 33512 on post.

Cost is \$25 and pre-registration is required. For more information, call the Red Cross at 787-6311.

Dental Assistant Program

Red Cross and DENTAC have teamed up to bring the Dental Assistant Program to our community. The program is 40 hours per week for 6 months. Candidates must be 18 or over with military I.D. card and have 100 hours of volunteer service with Red Cross. This is intensive training and requires a big time commitment. The result is very marketable job skills. For more information, call 787-6311.

CPR & First Aid Training

Red Cross offers CPR & First Aid Training on **May 20 and 22**, at 6 - 9 p.m. in the Community Life Center Building. Attendance both evenings is required for certification. Cost is \$36. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 787-6311.

Mosquito spraying

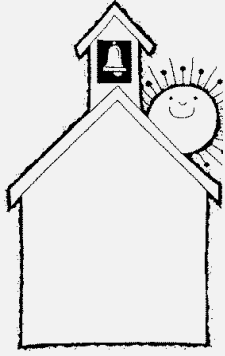
Pest Control will be fogging **weekdays** for mosquitoes as needed prior to 7:30 a.m. from now until October. The regular scheduled days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Days may be added if needed for mosquito control.

For more information, call 791-4206.

Library programs

Learn how to select, plant and maintain a variety of annual flowers. Annuals are easy to grow, can provide

The School Yard



Need help preparing for the SAT, PSAT or ACT?

The Southeast Region is offering an opportunity to utilize a comprehensive web-based curriculum to improve study skills, and test scores for students preparing to take college entrance exams. This program is available free of charge to students grades 9-12, and any armed services personnel or family member seeking post secondary level opportunities.

The advantages to this program are:

35 hours of instruction (8-9 weeks) prior to taking the SAT/PSAT/ ACT test

3 full practice test

21-35 lessons (based on test selection)

unlimited access from any computer with the internet

For more information, please call Staci Hill-Good at 791-7270.

Fort Gordon Report



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The newest edition of the "Fort Gordon Report" premieres **May 19** and includes the following stories:

- 93rd Signal Brigade Change of Responsibility
- Military Police Special Reactionary Team
- OWC Flea Market

The "Fort Gordon Report" and "Army Newswatch" alternate weeks on *Charter Cable Channel 13*: Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., 12 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

You can catch the latest "Fort Gordon Report" on *Comcast Cable Channel 66* on: Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays at 9 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

The newest edition of "Army Newswatch" will premiere **May 26**

The "Fort Gordon Report" is the Signal Center's official television news program and is produced on post by the Fort Gordon Public Affairs Office and the Training and Support Center

instant color and bloom for most of the season.

Mr. Sid Mullis, Richmond County extension coordinator, will present a 30-minute program at noon, **May 21** at the Woodworth Library. Please bring your lunch and "brown-bag" it with us while learning about annual flowers which are easy to grow in the Augusta area.

Summer Reading Program called, *Beat the Heat, READ!* is **June 16 through Aug. 4** on Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon for children 2 - 13.

Woodworth Library summer reading program is **June 10** at 11 a.m. Magical entertainer David Ginn will present "Ocean of Magic."

For more information on any of these programs, call 791-7323.

Safety day

Fort Gordon's annual Safety Stand Up Day is **May 22**, starting at 9 a.m. on Barton Field.

The purpose is to increase safety awareness among military personnel, their family members and civilian employees of the post both on and off the job.

Several off post organizations will participate, including: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, area law enforcement agencies, Coast Guard Auxiliary and Operation Lifesaver.

Exhibits on safety issues include, MP K-9 patrol, wildlife, alcohol and drug abuse, boating and water safety, bicycling, household safety and risk reduction in the work place.

Safety Stand Up Day is free and open to public. For more information, call 791-7233.

Sports & Leisure

Sports UPDATE

Ladies golf schedule

Thursdays are ladies golf days at Gordon Lakes Golf Course. Tee time is 8 a.m.

For more information, call Pauline Blandeburgo at 863-3747.

Ladies golf guest tournament

The women's golf club will hold a guest tournament **May 22** in which each member will invite three guests to join in on some golfing fun. The tournament starts at 9 a.m.

Signal Corps band looking for members

The United States Signal Corps Band here on post is looking for some additional talent. The band is looking for a vocalist, announcer, bass guitar player, bugler (trumpet player), clarinet player, French Horn player, oboe player, and trombone player.

For more information, call 791-2481 or 2423.

Donorfest 2003

The post blood drive, sponsored by MWR in conjunction with the 551st Signal Battalion, will be held **May 22** at the Gordon Lanes Bowling Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 791-8512 or 791-6234.

Beach Blast

The Beach Blast celebration held each year at the Fort Gordon Recreation Center on Strom Thurmond Lake off post will take place on **May 24**, beginning at noon.

Activities will include a volleyball tournament, kids games, horseshoe tournament, watermelon seed spitting contest, as well as entertainment and food concessions.

For more information, call 541-1057.

Commissary Awareness Day

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will hold its annual commissary awareness day **May 21** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The day will include commissary tours, shopping sprees for active duty soldiers, door prizes, giveaways and refreshments. A pizza party will be awarded for the company with the most participants. For more information, contact Sgt. Demetrius Dowell at 791-0588.

Movies!

At the movies this week are the following features:

May 16: Bringing Down the House (PG-13)

May 17 (early show): Dreamcatcher (R)

May 17 (late show): Gangs of New York (R)

May 18: Dreamcatcher (R)

The Signal Theater is open Thursday to Sunday. All shows begin at 6:30 p.m. The late show on Saturday begins at 9:30 p.m.

For more information on movie listings, call 791-3982.



Photo by Spc. Ryan Matson

U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, enjoys a cart ride from the president of Fort Gordon's chapter of the Association of the United States Army, Bob Damen. The two paired up to compete in the annual AUSA golf tournament May 13.

AUSA tourney tees off!

Spc. Ryan Matson

Staff writer

For the 13th year in a row, golfers from throughout the Fort Gordon and local community and even several states away teed it up at the Gordon Lakes Golf Course for a good cause – the Fort Gordon chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Last year a field of 131 golfers, including then Commanding General, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon, Maj. Gen. Pat Cavanaugh and Fort Gordon Chief of Staff Col. Jeffrey Foley, hit the links for the 18-hole tournament.

This year, the tournament was bigger and better, Bob Damen, Fort Gordon's AUSA chapter president, said.

A total of 158 golfers participated in this year's tournament which was lengthened to 27 holes of golf, all of which were sponsored by a local business. The tournament, held May 13, had a shot-gun start at 12:30 p.m.

The money raised at this year's tournament will be well spent, Damen said.

"Our chapter puts all the money we raise to good use in support of America's Army right here at Fort Gordon," Damen said. "We support individuals by recognizing and rewarding installation quarterly and yearly award winners, we support unit morale and fundraising activities, we pay all the expenses to bring outstanding soldiers every year to Washington, D.C. to participate in the AUSA Annual Meeting and we help support events for families, retirees, civilians, Guard and Reserve whenever possible."

Damen said AUSA acts as the "voice of the Army," providing support for the interest of the American soldier by lobbying for Army interests on Capitol Hill. He said the AUSA has branches throughout the world, even in places as remote as Panama, where the Army's presence has become diminished over the years.

He said the AUSA is comprised of members in the active Army, retired military, the Army Reserves, civilians and corporate America.

The AUSA Annual Golf Tournament is one of three major fund raising activities the local chapter hosts to build upon the funds generated through members in the chapter, Damen said. They also hold a Bowl-a-thon each year, and finish with a second golf tournament during symposium week, he said.

During the AUSA Annual meeting soldiers from post are rewarded with a chance to meet such key Army leaders as the Sgt. Major of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army. He said AUSA also sponsors a team for the Army 10-Miler in October, also held at the nation's capitol.

This year it was the Commanding General, U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon leading the command group and Damen through the course.

Damen credited the increased corporate sponsorship for helping make the tournament such a success. While last year's tournament, which was held in mid-July, drew 24 corporate sponsors, this year's tournament featured 28 sponsors.

Bob Snead, of the General Dynamics corporation on post, and also an AUSA member and organizer of the tournament, told *The Signal* how vital the sponsors are to the tournament's existence.

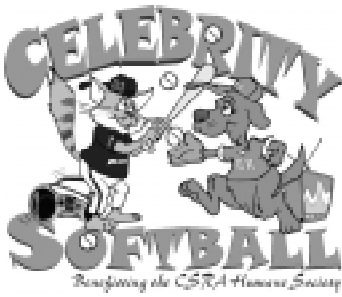
He said the sponsors funded everything from the door and place-winner prizes to the beverages and snacks provided between holes on the course.

The sponsors even provided what Snead calls the "19th hole", a free buffet for the golfers following the tournament. Putting on a dinner for a large group of people is no small chore in itself, Snead said.

If someone is interested in joining the AUSA, Snead said there are two easy ways to get involved.

He said you can find out information at www.AUSA.org, or call him at 790-3232.

Damen summed up what the annual golf tournament means to his organization when he said, "Retired Lt. Gen. Roger Thompson, Vice President from AUSA National visited Fort Gordon last December. He referred to AUSA as the organization that supports and represents America's Army – active, National Guard, Reserve, civilians, retirees, family members and FOTA. FOTA stands for friends of the Army, and that's what this golf tournament is all about! Every group I just mentioned will be participating in this tournament. This is the main fundraising event for our AUSA chapter, but it has also become an annual tradition, a fun day, bringing together the folks who work here on Fort Gordon with our many friends from Augusta area government, business and industry."



Spc. Ryan Matson

Staff writer

Media people are always competing with each other to get the best story to the public in the fastest manner possible. In a few days, local media personalities will once again be competing with one another, including a representative from *The Signal*, but for a good cause.

The 4th Annual Celebrity Softball Game to benefit the CSRA Humane Society will start at noon on May 18 and feature three softball games between local TV personalities, local radio personalities and print media.

The event was launched four years ago by the CSRA Humane Society and has grown steadily in popularity since that time, Angela Hillesland, the public relations spokesperson for Saturn of Augusta, one of the event's sponsors, said. This is the second time the dealership has been involved in organizing the tournament.

"I had done a small

amount of volunteering with the CSRA Humane Society and when I learned of this event I thought it would be a fun activity to be part of," she said. "It is a great fundraising and awareness event that brings together a lot of competing media people who wouldn't normally be 'on the same team.' This is also the first year we've included print media."

Last year's tournament raised \$1,500 for the CSRA Humane Society, and the goal for this year's tournament is \$3,000. The money comes from sponsorship, ticket sales, concession and souvenir sales and raffle ticket sales, Hillesland said. Tickets to attend this event are \$5 each and can be purchased at the CSRA Humane Society, Saturn of Augusta, National Hills Animal Hospital and the Sports Authority. Children 10 and under get in free.

Three games will be played in the tournament, which begins at 1 p.m. with television and radio personalities battling it out on the diamond in the opener. Next, print media, including a representative from *The Signal*, will square off against cable at 2:15 p.m., and the two winners will square off in the championship game at 3:30 p.m.

Besides the entertain-

ment on the field, the celebrity tournament will also offer a host of other activities for spectators and attendees. The new Animal Planet character, Crikey the Crocodile, will be appearing at the game and fans will also get a chance to get their photo taken with a cardboard cut-out of Crocodile Hunter star Steve Irwin. Souvenirs will be available and a blank area in the program will be designated for autographs from your favorite media personalities.

Media organizations par-

ticipating in the event include: 95 Rock, Comcast, Fox 54, Newschannel 6, *The Augusta Chronicle*, *Augusta Focus*, Eagle 102, Power 107, Kicks 99, Magic 96, Foxie 103, TV 26 and *The Signal*.

Sponsors for the event include: Saturn of Augusta, Sam's Club, Club Car, Augusta Minit Print, The Augusta Greenjackets, South Trust Bank, Easy Riders of Augusta, Red Wolf, Inc., Animal Planet, and Amerigraphics.

Anyone who brings a small bag of puppy or kitty

food to the ballpark to donate to the CSRA will also be entered in a raffle to win prizes such as Greenjackets tickets or Animal Planet souvenirs.

But perhaps the most important reward for the day, Hillesland said, will be helping the organization that helps stray animals find a home again.

"This is going to be a fun event for the whole family, a great way to support a group that works very hard to care for homeless animals," she said.

Big bird!

John Schnitzler, of Grovetown, a Fort Gordon turkey hunting lottery winner, poses with a turkey he shot March 29 at 8 a.m. It was Schnitzler's first turkey, and was called into range by his friend Jack Baker. The turkey weighed 19.5 pounds with a nine-inch beard and spurs 7/8 inches long.

"I saw that big red, white and blue head pop up over the hill and Jack hit a couple of soft notes on the glass friction call and the turkey came running right in and I took him out," Schnitzler said. "It took me about 20 minutes to quit shaking from the excitement." Turkey season ended May 15, with around 50 turkeys having been harvested this year.



courtesy photo

Post-wide blood drive to be held on Thursday

Spc. Ryan Matson
Staff writer

Donorfest, a post-wide blood drive sponsored by MWR in conjunction with the 551st Signal Battalion, is right around the corner. The eight-and-a-half hour blood drive will take place May 22 from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Gordon Lanes Bowling Center on post.

And what an event it will be! The drive was inspired by ideas from soldiers from the 551st Signal Battalion and made possible through the efforts of Morale Welfare and Recreation. All blood will be collected by the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center, a facility whose first priority is providing blood for soldiers and their families who need it.

551st Signal Battalion commander Lt. Col. Karla M. Donovan expressed why collecting blood for fellow soldiers was of such importance.

“I believe every soldier who feels the prick of the needle will bear that discomfort willingly knowing that their blood will save a life of a fellow soldier or family member,” Donovan said.

“While the hostilities in Iraq are winding down, it is important to note that the U.S. faces conflict every day in over 30 countries around the world. There are also soldiers who are terminally ill, and accidents everyday that may require this life-giving resource.”

Everyone from local media to businesses and organizations on and off post have jumped aboard to back the cause, which will be full of giveaways and activities for donors and their families.

After donating blood in a large new conference room in Gordon Lanes, anyone who donates a pint of blood at the drive will automatically receive three free games of

bowling donated by Gordon Lanes Bowling Center. But that’s just the beginning.

Donors will also receive a free car wash. The car wash will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. and will be the volunteer efforts of Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and soldiers from the 551st Signal Battalion

They will receive a free T-shirt, compliments of the Kendrick Memorial Blood Donor Center.

And, to top it all off, anyone who donates a pint of blood at the drive will also be automatically registered in a drawing in which several nice prizes, donated by AAFES food court, Rhinehart’s Oyster Bar, Burger King, Fort Gordon Credit Union, Holiday Inn West and First Command. Prizes will be awarded to

and 3 p.m. Augusta’s own professional hockey team, the Lynx, will be represented by mascot Louie the Lynx.

Besides the usual refreshments that are served after a person donates blood, other food will be offered.

Donovan was somewhat overwhelmed by the response of the post and local community.

“I will work with anyone or any organization that believes in doing the right thing and volunteerism,” Donovan said. “They simultaneously humble me and build my confidence in my own choice to serve my country.”

The drive may be on a larger-scale than the typical blood drives held on post, but Donovan said it is important to be able to draw as much blood as possible, including from the family member/retiree population on post, since many permanent party soldiers are ineligible to donate blood due to restrictions imposed by countries they have been deployed to.

“With blood being one of our most critical resources due to both shortages of some types and its perishable characteristics, it is extremely important to for all of us to remember to give,” she said.

“Doing so on a large scale increases the chance that we will be able to increase the quantities of the most critical types of blood.”

The drive may have incentives for donors and other attractions, but the real reason many people felt obligated to participate was the impact blood can have on treating various diseases, burns and other injuries.

Kim Lyons, marketing director at MWR, explained why it was important for MWR to back this event.

“A pint given today can save a soldier’s life tomorrow,” she said.

For more information on this event, call 791-8512 or 791-6234.

Fort Gordon dinner theatre does it again

Denise Allen
Staff Writer

It’s not often that Steve and Elizabeth Nelson Walpert have the opportunity to share the same stage, but when they do, they love every moment.

“He’s wonderful on stage and off,” said Mrs. Walpert who stars with her husband in Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre’s current production of “The Housekeeper.” The show will be staged tonight, Saturday, Thursday, Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24. Dinner begins at 7 p.m. with the show at 8 p.m.

Mr. Walpert almost echoes those comments about his wife.

“It’s wonderful working with Betty on stage not just because of our personal relationship. She’s a wonderful actress and a terrific comedienne,” he said.

The couple met in the early 1980s through Fort Gordon’s Dinner Theatre and married in 1985. Mr. Walpert’s love of the arts has led him to become the director of the theater program at Fort Gordon, and Mrs.

Walpert teaches drama at John S. Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School.

“The Housekeeper” was the first two-person show the couple performed together several years ago. Mr. Walpert doesn’t often repeat a show; however, there were many requests for the reprise.

“We want to introduce others to the show,” he said.

Written by James Prideaux, “The Housekeeper” is about an aging writer, Manley Carstairs, who lives in his family home and spends most of his days behind a typewriter, until his mother dies.

He decides he needs a housekeeper, but when Annie Dankworth comes into his life, it’s not what he bargained for at all. Their humorous relationship unfolds through the course of the play.

Although they’ve done the show before, this time their performances have taken on a different tone. Director Gene Howard, who has appeared in dinner theater productions “It Runs in the Family” and “Plaza Suite,” brought a new life to the

characters, Mr. Walpert said.

“He’s helped me find new things in the character,” he said. “He helped us break the mold a little bit.”

Tickets to dinner theater are \$30 for civilians; \$28 for seniors (65 and older), retirees, Department of the Army civilians and active duty E8 and above; \$17 for active duty E7 and below; and \$10 for the show only.

For reservations, call 793-8552 or visit **www.fortgordon.com**.

The run of “The Housekeeper” isn’t over, but Mr. Walpert is already thinking ahead to the next show “They’re Playing Our Song.”

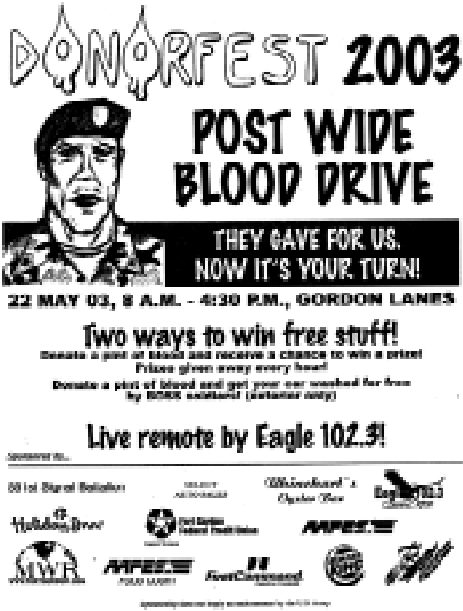
Auditions for the Neil Simon play with music by Marvin Hamlisch and Carol Bayer Sager will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the dinner theater. There are parts for four men and four women ages 18-45. Auditioners must bring prepared pieces in the 70s pop style, preferably something from the show.

“They’re Playing Our Song” will open on July 11.

Steve Walpert and Elizabeth Nelson-Walpert square off as a stuffy middle-aged bachelor and his wacky housekeeper in James Prideaux’s hilarious comedy, The Housekeeper, currently playing at the Fort Gordon Dinner Theatre.



Courtesy photo



winners every hour.

Fort Gordon Association of the United States Army president Bob Damen is among the drive sponsors. AUSA will donate several nice backpacks to drawing winners, and he will be on hand to personally present one to a lucky donor. But just as importantly, Damen will also be donating a pint of blood himself.

Local radio station 102.3 (the Eagle, “The Home of Classic Rock,”) will bring a radio personality to broadcast live from the drive between 1